(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Farmers and Implementing States have requested from time to time to reduce the unit area of insurance to Village or Gram Panchayat level so as to make more realistic assessment of crop loss and compensation under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS).

The Joint Group constituted by the Government of India to study the improvements required in the existing crop insurance schemes has examined this issue and have recommended 'Gram Panchayat' as unit area of insurance for major crops. The Government is consulting various Stakeholders regarding implementation of the recommendations of the Group.

National Horticulture Mission

2589. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of the National Horticulture Mission;

(b) the details of areas that have been identified in Andhra Pradesh which are regionally different from others for cluster approach and for the development of horticulture crops in the State;

(c) the difference between Technology Mission for integrated development to Horticulture and NHM;

(d) the total allocation made for NHM in the Tenth Plan for Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) the targets set for National Horticulture Mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) The main objectives of the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) are:

(i) To provide holistic growth of the horticulture sector through an area based regionally differentiated strategies which include research, technology promotion, extension, post harvest management,

processing and marketing, in consonance with comparative advantage or each State/region and its diverse agro-climatic features;

(ii) To enhance horticulture production, improve nutritional security and income support to farm households;

(iii) To establish convergence and synergy among multiple on-going and planned programmes for horticulture development;

(iv) To promote, develop and disseminate technologies, through a seamless blend of traditional wisdom and modem scientific knowledge;

(v) To create opportunities for employment generation for skilled and unskilled persons, especially unemployed youth.

(b) Total 12 districts namely, Srikakulam, West Godavari, Guntur, Ananthapur, Prakasham, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Mahabubnagar, Rangareddy, Nalgonda, Khammam and Nizamabad have been identified in the State of Andhra Pradesh with cluster approach for nine horticultural crops based on their respective production strength and potential for further development.

(c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Technology Mission of Integrated Development of Horticulture, there are four mini missions (i) Research, (ii) Production, (iii) Post Harvest Management & Marketing and (iv) Processing, Whereas, under NHM there is no such compartmentalization of mini missions. Besides, activities of research and processing are to be funded by the respective Departments. Technology Mission is being implemented in the North Eastern States including Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttaranchal and NHM is being implemented in the remaining 24 States and Union Territories of the country.

(d) A State-wise allocation for the Tenth Plan has not been made under NHM. However, an amount of Rs. 8718.01 lakh has been sanctioned to Andhra Pradesh during 2005-06.

(e) During the Tenth Plan, NHM envisages to cover an area of 5.40 lakhs hectares under new gardens and about 1.0 lakh hectares under rejuvenation, establishment of 790 nurseries, Integrated Pest Management in 6.0 lakh hectares, Organic farming in 1.0 lakh hectares, creation of post harvest management and market infrastructure facilities involving 3400 pack houses, 551 cold storage units, 5 Controlled Atmosphere Storage (C.A.) units and 490 markets.